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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,797	12/02/2003	Cord Starke	5028.1003	3348
23280	7590	10/27/2004	EXAMINER	
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC 485 SEVENTH AVENUE, 14TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018			NGUYEN, TRUC T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
DATE MAILED: 10/27/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/725,797	Applicant(s) STARKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Truc T. T. Nguyen	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 12 and 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11, 13-15, 19-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/3/04 &amp; 12/02/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Spinner (US 4,440,464).

Regarding claim 1, Spinner discloses an electrical connector comprising:

a plug including a threaded sleeve (14), the threaded sleeve including an external thread having at least one threadless area (18); and  
a socket connectable to the plug and including a union nut (30), the union nut including an internal thread (28) configured for threaded engagement with the external thread of the plug;  
wherein the internal thread of the union nut is configured to be received by the at least one threadless area and tightened onto the external thread.

Regarding claim 12, Spinner discloses the external thread includes a respective individual first thread on each side of the at least one threadless area, the individual first threads being aligned with each other.

Regarding claim 16, Spinner discloses an electrical connector comprising:

a plug including a threaded sleeve (14), the threaded sleeve including an external thread having at least one threadless area (18); and

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a socket connectable to the plug and including a union nut (30), the union nut including an internal thread configured for threaded engagement with the external thread of the plug, the internal thread not having a threadless area.

3. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Majors (US 6,135,800).

Majors discloses an electrical connector comprising:

a plug including a threaded sleeve, the threaded sleeve including an external thread (114) not having a threadless area; and

a socket connectable to the plug and including a union nut (104), the union nut including an internal thread (150) configured for threaded engagement with the external thread of the plug, the internal thread having at least one threadless area (158).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spinner (US 4,440,464).

Spinner discloses an electrical connector comprising:

a plug including a threaded sleeve (14), the threaded sleeve including an external thread having at least one threadless area (18); and

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a socket (30) connectable to the plug, the socket including an internal thread (28) configured for threaded engagement with the external thread of the plug;

wherein the internal thread of the socket is configured to receive the at least one threadless area for tightening the external thread onto the internal thread.

Spinner substantially disclosed the claimed invention except for the socket is being disposed in a stationary housing. Spinner discloses the plug is a stationary. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the socket being stationary, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Einstein*, 8 USPQ 167.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 2-11, 13-15, 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 2-11 and 19-20, the prior art of record fails to teach the plurality thread areas of the internal thread are matching with the plurality threadless areas of the external thread.

Regarding claims 13-15, the prior art of record fails to teach the individual first and second threads each have a respective chamfer at a start of the respective thread.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2011. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. T. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2833

